Allegation agaist Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra

4078. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Guwahati D.D. Kendra accused of getting kickback from the funds sanctioned by the centre for producing programmes to mark fifty years of independence published in the Telegraph Newspaper on 26th March, 1997;

(b) is so, what steps have been taken up against all concerned; and

(c) amount of funds sanctioned for the 50 years' of independence programme on State-wise basis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMA TION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Although the Government is aware oS the newspaper report, detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wastage of Newsprints

4079. SHRI GAYA. SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the normal wastage of newsprints in a newspaper;

(b) whether certain newspapers including of leading group of newspapers have shown a high percentage of wastage;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have enquired as to why this is happening:

(e) if so, outcome thereof and steps being taken, if any in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMA TION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No such information is maintained by the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Telecast of Anand Patwardhan's Film Ram-Kc-Nam on Doordarshaii

4080. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not telecasting Anand Patwardhan's film 'Ram-Ke-Mam' on Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Bombay High Court ordered Doordarshan to tele-east the same; and

(c) if so, when it will be shown on Doordarshan?

THE MTNISTR OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The film 'Ram-Ke-Nam' has already been telecast on national network of Doordarshan on 2/3/1997 in pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble Mumbai High Court.

Prescribed tenure for stay of a station Director of AIR

4081. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a prescribed tenure for stay of a Station Director (ordinary grade) of All India Radio, at one place at a stretch;

(b) if so, details of Station Directors, who have not been transferred since 1991 though they have completed the prescribed tenure:

(c) whether it is also a fact that those transferred in 1992 have not yet been relieved: and

(d) if so, the reasons and justifi cation therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Although there is a prescribed tenure but it is subject to exigencies of service .

(b) The following officers in the grade of Station Director have not been transferred since 1991:—

(i) Shri Fayyaz Sheheryar, Station Director, Radio Kashmir, Jammu.

(ii) Smt. Sukhjinder Kaur, Joint Director (Farm & Home), Directorate General, All India Radio.

(c) and (d) The transfers ordered in 1992 were by and large implemen ted, but there have been some cases where orders had to be modifi ed either in public interest or on account of accentuating personal pro blems , !

Closure of Cinema Theatres

4082. SHRI C. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that approximately 500 cinema theatres throughout the country have been either closed or converted into commercial complexes, creating a threat to Film Industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a)
and (b) According to information avaiable in the Films Division, a total of 466 cinema houses remained closed in the entire country during the last 8 years. Establishment and closure of cinema houses is in the private sector and is governed by market forces. Licensing of theatres falls within the purview of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Telecast of programmes from border areas of Pakistan

4083. SHRI RAMDAS AGAR-WAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated 27th April, 1997 captioned "Thar turns to Pakistan TV as DD staffers play truant";

(b) if so, the details thereof indica ting the total expenditure incurred on setting up high power transmitters at Ramgarh, Chauhatan and at Masso-nia Hills in Jodhpur during 1993-97 including usages;

(c) whether DD worked out any compromise plan for thsir engineer ing staff; and

(d) by when, Indian programmes would be telecast from the border areas of Rajasthan,

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1993 to 1997 the total expenditure incurred on the setting up of High Power Transmitters at Ramgarh, Chauhatan and Massonia Hils in Jodhpur is Rs. 295.55 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Regular transmission from these transmitters would be star-led as soon as the requisite posts are sanctioned by the competent authority. The question of having any compromise plan for engineering staff does not arise.